Scarcity and high price of fertilizers

25. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported scarcity and high price of fertilizers in Southern States putting farmers into difficulties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the requirements of fertilizers to farmers in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Under Fertilizer Control Order, 1985, the State Governments have been empowered to check selling price of fertilizers and take action against the offenders. Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial distribution control. Department of Fertilizer monitors availability of Urea and the de-controlled fertilizers like DAP, MOP and NPK in the States. The requirement and availability of Urea, DAP, MOP and NPK fertilizers in the Southern States during Kharif 2008 is as under:-

UREA (in lakh tonnes)

States	Requirement	Availability	Sales
Andhra Pradesh	13.50	14.20	13.64
Karnataka	8.00	7.47	7.39
Kerala	0.75	1.02	0.96
Tamil Nadu	4.35	4.53	4.49

DAP (in lakh tonnes)

States	Requirement	Availability	Sales
Andhra Pradesh	4.25	5.35	5.35
Karnataka	3.80	4.30	4.29
Kerala	0.20	0.13	0.12
Tamil Nadu	2.10	1.92	1.91

MOP (in lakh tonnes)

States	Requirement	Availability	Sales
Andhra Pradesh	2.50	3.17	3.14
Karnataka	2.30	3.06	2.91
Kerala	0.70	0.94	0.89
Tamil Nadu	2.00	2.73	2.69

NPK-Complexes (in lakh tonnes)

States	Requirement	Availability	Sales
Andhra Pradesh	11.50	8.94	8.83
Karnataka	5.67	4.57	4.52
Kerala	0.98	0.91	0.89
Tamil Nadu	1.75	1.29	1.28

The Government of India has been leaving no stone unturned to ensure that full requirement of various States is met as per temporal phasing projected by the States. Barring complexes where the entire requirement is met by indigenous production, imports have been restored to, in order to fulfil the demand.

Poor harvesting and mismanagement

26. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one third of India's total crops go waste because of poor harvesting/mismanagement by concerned officers;

(b) if so, the actual figures about post harvest losses during the last three years, indicating whether any authoritative estimates of such losses are available with concerned Government Department; and

(c) if not, whether his Ministry proposes to call a meeting of State Agriculture Ministers to keep strict watch on such losses/mismanagement including stern anti-hording measures to keep check on day-by-day rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No such information is available in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation on wastage due to mismanagement by concerned officers. However, the post-harvest losses including storage losses are estimated to by around 7% in foodgrains, 30 per cent in fruits and vegetables and 10% of variable spices due to lack of proper post-harvest infrastructural facilities as per the millennium study conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture.

No specific study regarding wastage of foodstuff has been conducted by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. However, a High Level Expert Committee on Cold Storage and Storage constituted by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, in the year 1999, had estimated that 25 to 30% of fruits and vegetables and 8 to 10% of foodgrains are lost annually due to lack of post-harvest technology and non-existence of integrated transport, storage and marketing facilities etc.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is always in touch with the State/ Union Territory Government for bringing out different reforms in agriculture including agricultural